prepare a detailed feasibility study on making India an investment destination for refineries, in particular export-oriented refineries, aimed at promoting India as the refining hub of South Asia/South East Asia.

Recommendations of Synergy in Energy Panel

1680. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:
SHRI C. PERUMAL:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Synergy in Energy Panel headed by Dr. V. Krishnamurthy, has submitted its report to Government;

(b) if so, the details of its major recommendations and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Committee has recommended policy and structural changes and also suggested certain management solutions for improved performance of the oil companies in the public sector. Some of the major recommendations are:

1. Merger of Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) may not be advisable for the present.
2. On policy issues there is need for an integrated energy policy, setting up of Cabinet Committee on Energy headed by the Prime Minister and setting up of an Energy Ministry. The Committee has also recommended revamping of the existing framework of supervision and overview by various surveillance agencies like Central Vigilance Commission by setting up of pre-investigation Board with former PSUs chiefs, Government and Private Sector representatives.

3. For empowering Directorate General of Hydrocarbons as an autonomous body with a separate cadre of experts and access to funds.

4. For overseas ventures, to set up a parallel new entity by Oil India Limited. Intense competition in overseas bidding is to be avoided by fixing up a limit related to the production capacity of more than 2 million tones of oil equivalent for ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), below which the other new entity would be permitted to bid.

5. Another recommendation of the Committee relates to setting up of a National Shareholding Trust, modeled after Temasek of Singapore and Khazanah of Malaysia, but with a modification. The oil PSUs joining the Trust shall continue to retain their PSU character and the Trust shall function as non-profit Trust set up under the Societies Registration Act or under the Companies Act or as a statutory body. The Board of the Trust will comprise eminent personalities from Government, Public Sector and Private Sector. The Committee expects that the greater autonomy to the Trust would ensure synergy in operations.

The recommendations are under consideration of the Government.

Commissioning of refinery at Bhatinda

1681. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the status report of the commissioning of Guru Gobind Singh Refineries Ltd. at Bhatinda; and

(b) by when, it is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Based on the incentives offered by the State Government of Punjab (GoP), as also other commercial considerations, Hindustan Petroleum Corporaton Limited (HPCL) have decided to set up a refinery at Bhatinda. The Deed of Assurance (DoA) is scheduled to be signed at Bhatinda on 12.8.2005 in the presence of the Chief Minister of Punjab and the Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.